

Patent Amendment 23 January 2003
Mueller Filed 19 April 2001
Confirmation 8503
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a reflective opaque glass backing member located within said void portion;

provided further that said reflective opaque glass backing member does not substantially interfere with the transmission of electrical light from said electrical light source emitter through said eroded transparent or translucent glass member.

Please cancel claim 2.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

Claim 4. (Once Amended). The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein said eroded transparent or translucent glass member has a lengthwise dimension, a heightwise dimension, a widthwise dimension, said heightwise dimension and said widthwise dimension at least partially defining, a forward surface of said eroded transparent or translucent glass member and a rear surface of said transparent or translucent glass member.

[Claim 5 has been amended as follows:]

Claim 5. (Once Amended). The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein said eroded transparent or translucent glass member is transparent.

[Claim 6 has been amended as follows:]

Claim 6. (Once Amended). The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein said eroded transparent or translucent glass member is translucent.

[Claim 7 has been amended as follows:]

Claim 7 (Amended) The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said eroded transparent glass member, said eroded translucent

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glass member, or said reflective opaque glass backing member is at least partially painted.

[Claim 8 has been amended as follows.]

Claim 8. (Once Amended). The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein said void at least partially receives said eroded transparent or translucent glass member.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

Claim 12. (Once Amended). The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein said eroded transparent or translucent glass member at least partially retains said electrical light source emitter within said void.

[Claim 13 has been amended as follows.]

Claim 13. (Once Amended). A lighting system comprising:

a frame member;

said frame member having a void portion;

an electrical light source emitter for emitting an electrical light;

said void for at least partially receiving said electrical light source emitter;

at least one eroded transparent or translucent glass member;

a reflective opaque glass backing member located within said void portion;

said electrical light source emitter, when emitting light, disposed between said eroded transparent or translucent glass member, and said reflective opaque glass backing member;

provided further that said reflective opaque glass backing member does not substantially interfere with the transmission of electrical light from said electrical

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light source emitter through said eroded transparent or translucent glass member.

B7 [Claim 14 has been amended as follows]

Claim 14 (Once Amended) The lighting system according to claim 13 wherein said electrical light source emitter is at least partially retained within said void by pressure from said eroded transparent or translucent glass member.

Please Cancel claim 15.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

B8 Claim 16 (Once Amended) The lighting system according to claim 13 wherein at least one of said transparent glass member, said, translucent glass member, or said reflective opaque glass backing member is at least partially painted.

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

Claim 18 (Once Amended) A method of lighting comprising:
emitting an electrical light generated by an electrical light source emitter from within a frame member;
said frame member having a void portion;
said frame member further comprising at least one decorative eroded transparent or translucent glass member, and at least one decorative reflective opaque glass backing member wherein the emitted electrical light passes through at least one of said decorative eroded transparent or translucent glass member and reflects from said decorative reflective opaque glass backing surface.

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Discussion of the Amendment

Three embedded hyperlinks have been removed from the specification with the notation dot com or dot html used to avoid the computer coding. Element 34 has been substituted for element 42 as seen in Figure 1.

An amendment has been made to recite that the piece of engraved glass 120 has an inward facing eroded surface 122 as seen in Figures 5 and 6.

The amendment to each of independent claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 16, and 18 relates to subject matter originally presented in the specification. Namely, the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 16 of the specification recites:

A back plate 90 is secured to the framing unit 22. The back plate 90 may partially protect the various glass components of the present invention. The back plate 90 is conveniently any opaque material. If desired, the opaque material forming the back plate 90 may be a reflective material such as a mirror or metal coated film. The advantage of employing a reflective material is that the light transmitted through the glass is enhanced.
Page 8, line 16 et seq.

Claims 1, Claims 3 through 14 inclusive, and claims 16 through 18 inclusive are presented for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Discussion of the Formal Requirements

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. The code has been replaced to avoid the hyperlink

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action the Examiner objected to the drawings because the framing unit 42 (page 8 line 8), eroded glass 160 (page 10 line 7) and rope light 236 (page 1 line 5) are not shown. The Examiner further states that elements 34 and 134 are not identified.

Element 34 has been substituted for element 42 as seen in Figure 1. The eroded glass 160 is now shown in Figure 6. The rope light 236 is now identified in Figure 7. The frame face 134 is described in the specification at page 9, line 17 and is shown in Figure 5.

100k
110k
120k
in
Fig 5

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The Examiner In paragraph 4 of the Official Action states the drawings must show the void portion and the electrical light source emitter must be shown. The void portion referred to in the claims is the channel 94 as seen in Figure 2. The electrical light source emitter is the string of rope lights 12 as seen in Figure 3.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 8 and claims 10 through 18 inclusive as being anticipated by Schöniger et al., United States Patent 5,027,258 issued June 25, 1991 (hereinafter the Schöniger et al. patent). The Examiner has not rejected claim 9 as being anticipated by on the Schöniger et al. patent and no statement concerning the Schöniger et al. patent anticipation rejection should be taken as having any bearing on the novelty of claim 9.

Discussion of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection

The rejected independent claims 1, 13, and 18 now emphasize that the opaque glass backing member is reflective. The contrast panel 19 of the Schöniger et al. patent is stated by the Examiner in the Official Action to be an opaque member. No where in the Schöniger et al. patent is it stated that the contrast panel 19 should be reflective. The opaque member of the Schöniger et al. patent is never even suggested to be reflective. Thus, all of the applicant's claims are novel over the Schöniger et al. patent and the anticipation rejection should be removed and such is requested.

5 opaque member not reflective

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 as being obvious from the Schöniger et al. patent in view of Torrence, United States Patent 4,922,384 (hereinafter the Torrence patent). The Examiner has not rejected claims 1 through 8 and claims 10 through 18 as being obvious from the Schöniger et al. patent and any comments directed to the obviousness rejection of claim 9 do not apply to the foregoing claims.

Discussion of the U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection

The invention described in the present application is for decorative or other